

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 22 with the following amended paragraph:

In a similar fashion to that of the first data conversion method, in the spot color reference step 102, and the tone arithmetic step 103, the spot color reproduction image data component is created. Then, in the spot color screening step 115, the spot color reproduction image data component is subjected to a screening processing using such a halftone dot pattern that a color of image portion represented by the spot color reproduction image data component is ~~elosed~~close to a spot color of the printed image 41 as much as possible.